CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

VOL. XV
No. 10

MAR 8, 1993

SPECIAL ELECTION UPDATE

Editor's note: There were a number of special elections in Calif. on Mar. 2nd - including 3 for the State Senate, 1 for the Assembly, a council special in Sacramento, plus several regularly scheduled municipal elections. Here is our report & analysis, starting with the Legislative specials...

• **32nd. S.D.** - No surprise here. Hardline conservative businessman Rob Hurtt of Orange Co. got 75.9% of the vote to swamp all other challengers in a special to replace Ed Royce, now serving in congress. An easy win for McNally-Temple & Assoc. who managed Hurtt's campaign. The Hurtt victory also has other implications. Hurtt, who is a **major donor** to conservative candidates and causes, is now free to help the Senate GOP Caucus raise a huge warchest, which can be pumped into the two remaining senate specials...

• **2nd S.D.** - Demos were hoping that State Sen. Mike Thompson would be able to win this special without an Apr. 27th runoff. No such luck. Thompson got 47.2% and will face a strong challenge from Margie Handley of Willits, who got 39.4%. If Thompson had won outright, it would have made life easier for Demo Senate Pres. David Roberti and the Demo leadership team. Why was Thompson held under 50%? Sources cite two reasons: he refused to go negative on Handley and the turnout was low, especially in the Demo strongholds of Solano and Somona Counties. While Thompson is regarded as a favorite to win the runoff, he could have some other problems. GOP sources may go to court to have Thompson's current 4th Senate District job declared ***vacant***. Remember, Thompson signed an affidavit under oath saying he was a resident of the 2nd S.D...

• **16th S.D.** - The runoff here will be between Demo Assemblyman Jim Costa of Fresno and former GOP Assemblyman Phil Wyman of Bakersfield. Costa finished about 300 votes ahead of Wyman --- with 37.4%. A very close battle. Bakersfield Councilman Kevin McDermott, a close ally of GOP U.S. Rep. Bill Thomas, was wiped out, getting only 14.8%. This is a big setback for the Thomas organization. It was a big win for GOP consultant Steve Presson and sources now rate Wyman a very slight favorite over Costa. If you add Wyman's vote and McDermott's vote, it's about 52%. Throw in the rest of the GOP field and it's bigger. And during the primary there were **NO** attacks on Costa --- and he does have some vulnerabilities. Bottomline: Demo consultant Larry Sheingold has his work cut out for him...

• **31st A.D.** - Again, Demos were hoping that their candidate, Cruz Bustemonte, would win without a runoff. He came close, but no cigar. Bustemonte received 47.7%, and will thus face Fresno Co. Sup. Doug Vagim in a runoff. Vagim got 31.9%. The other key Demo in the race, Jacqueline Hodge, got 12.3% --- that's what kept Bustemonte from winning a majority. Since the 31st A.D. is heavy Demo turf in terms of registration, Bustemonte is considered a favorite to replace his former boss, Assemblyman Bruce Bronzan...

• **Fresno Mayor's Race** - There will be a May 4 runoff between religious broadcasting executive Jim Patterson, who got 46.4% of the vote, and Fresno Councilman Brian Setencich, who got 31.6%. Incumbent Mayor Karen Humphrey was mashed and got but 17%. Several CALPEEK sources had predicted that Humphrey would have a tough time making a runoff. Measure E dealing with **term limits** for mayor and the city council won with 73%. Another winner was the A-to-Z Tax Hike (Measure F), which sets up an assessment district within the entire City of Fresno. The sales

{Continued Next Page}

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310) 659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. $90.00/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHT BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SEC. OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

tax will be increased 1/10th cent to fund everything from the arts to the city zoo. Measure F won with 57% - a nice win for Townsend, Hermocillo et al. The other big measure on the Fresno ballot, Measure D to kill section 809 of the city code dealing with police and firefighter salaries, passed with a 62.8% vote. A major loss for the police and firefighters unions which pumped big bucks into the NO side...

• **Sacramento Council Special** - Debra Ortiz, an aide to Demo Assemblyman Richard Polanco, won a special to fill out the remaining term of Joe Serna, who was elected mayor last year...

• **Redondo Beach Mayor's Race** - Incumbent Mayor Brad Parton was forced into a runoff with Ron Cawdrey. Parton got 44.6% to Cawdrey's 27.2%. You may recall that Parton was a GOP assembly candidate last year against Debra Bowen. Stay tuned...

CALIF. GOP ENDORSES BIG TENT APPROACH AT CONVENTION. PARTY UNITY SEEMS RESTORED...
Editor's note: The reorganization convention of the CA Republican Party(CRP) is now history and it appears as though most delegates wanted the inter-party fighting that has dominated Calif. Republican Party politics for the past 3 years to be eliminated in time for Gov. Pete Wilson's reelection bid next year. Here is CALPEEK's report & analysis...

...There are several different **spins** to this convention, all of which have valid points. The humorous spin is that CRP delegates "missed an opportunity to shoot themselves in the foot." But the more serious *overall* spin, put forth by many CALPEEK sources and GOP campaign consultants, is that for the time being there is some degree of ***peace & unity*** within the ranks of the CRP...

...Why? Because both the new chair, Dr. Tirso Del Junco, and the new vice chair, John Herrington, are committed to what's called **Big Tent Politics.** Put another way, the highly volatile and controversial topic of *abortion* has been put on the back burner --- at least as far as the CRP is concerned. This will permit CA Republicans to stop fighting over most *social* issues and get back to their core issue of *economics*...

...How did Gov. Wilson emerge from this convention? His head was still on and that's a big improvement over past GOP conventions. And he no longer has to deal with former CRP chair Jim Dignan. Despite whatever spins you've heard, these two didn't like each other and there was a great deal of *tension* between them. Wilson has much work ahead to improve his popularity, even among the hardline conservatives. They still don't like him and many won't vote for him next year. But in terms of 1994, the results of the CRP convention is the first **good news** the governor has had in many, many months. Beyond 1994, if the peace holds up, what came out of the convention could even help the 1996 GOP presidential nominee. That's the long term implication of the Feb. 26-28 CRP gathering...

...In terms of hardliners, they had a mixed bag of results. Their slate of officers won 8 of the 11 positions, but on the key race for vice chair, Herrington mashed hardliner slate candidate John McGraw, a close ally of outgoing chair Jim Dignan. Herrington got 678 votes to McGraw's 517...

...FYI: Herrington's win was rather surprising because CALPEEK sources had predicted that McGraw would win. What happened? The conservative vote was split because GOP U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher and Assemblyman Pat Nolan combined forces to back Herrington. That proved to be the key to Herrington's win. However, hardliner Michael Schroeder was elected treasurer over former Assemblywoman Carol Bently --- and hardliners are calling this a major victory over Gov. Wilson. And a hardliner resolution opposing *gays in the military* also passed by wide margin.

CALIF. REPUBLICAN PARTY NEW OFFICERS.
Editor's note: Here are the names and titles of the new CA Republican Party(CRP) officers for the 1993-94 term:

Dr. Tirso Del Junco - Chair
John Herrington - Vice Chair
Karna Boyer - Reg. Vice Chair/North
Nick Bavaro - Reg. Vice Chair/Central
Mike Spence - Reg. Vice Chair/South
Michael Schroeder - Treasurer
Russell Gray - Asst. Treasurer
Dave Titus - Secretary
Ali Razi - 1st Secretary
Gerti Thomas - 2nd Asst. Secretary
Craig Powell - Chair, County Chairman's Assn.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

• **The S.F. Examiner Follies** - Or the Friday Fights. Well known political consultant Clint Reilly and S.F. Examiner exec. editor Phil Bronstein got into it during a heated meeting at the SFE's office --- and Reilly had to be taken to the hospital with a compound fracture of the left ankle, which required surgery. According to a statement issued by the SFE, no punches were thrown; the two *grabbed each other* and tumbled to the floor; Bronstein got up, but Reilly didn't. This was on Friday, Feb. 26. What everyone wants to know is what caused the fight? Some sources say Reilly went to see SFE Publisher Will Hearst and Bronstein because he was angered over what Reilly felt were inaccurate reports of himself in the paper. Other sources think the meeting may have been over a future story the paper was planning to run about Reilly. Will Reilly take legal action???

• **Bergeson Named to Replace Honig** - No big surprise here. Gov. Pete Wilson has named his 1990 running mate, State Sen. Marian Bergeson(R-Newport Beach), as CA's new Supt. of Public Instruction. On the question of confirmation, it's a split decision. Some sources think she'll win in a close vote, while others think Speaker Willie Brown, State Sen. Gary Hart(D) and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin(D) can pull enough votes to block the confirmation. Eastin and Hart both plan to run for Supt. of Public Instruction in 1994. If Bergeson is confirmed, then look for an all-out war between GOP Assemblymembers Gil Ferguson and Doris Allen, both of Orange Co., to replace Bergeson in the State senate...

• **Is S.F. Mayor Jordan In Hot Water?** - The new S.F. police chief is charged with sexual harassment by the department's public affairs rep; there's grumbling about the new deal with the S.F. Giants baseball team; the homeless coordinator and press secretary have quit in recent months; and very recently a city social services administrator was busted on Federal drug charges. It's all *bad news* for Mayor Frank Jordan, who many now believe is a 1-term mayor. Making matters worse, he faces a possible citywide **recall effort** that is supposed to get underway April 1st. Recall organizers claim to have signed up some 600 volunteers to launch the drive. Will it succeed? Most CALPEEK sources rate the odds of success at 3 on a scale of 10 --- not impossible, but difficult. Organizers need 46,000 signatures in order to qualify the recall...

• **Bill Press Has a Lock on CDP Job** - The odds of TV commentator/radio talk show host Bill Press succeeding Phil Angelides as chair of the CA Demo Party have increased markedly in recent weeks. Sources tell CALPEEK that atty. Lisa Specht and financial consultant Cathy Pfeiffenberger are no longer testing the waters. And Riverside area Demo Mark Takano has dropped out and has now endorsed Press. So far the only known Press challenger is Rock The Vote organizer Steve Bar, who is not regarded as heavy opposition. Sources tell CALPEEK that Press is picking up lots of key Demo endorsements, as well as delegates. The annual CDP convention is Apr. 2-4 in Sacto...

• **Extending the CA Sales Tax** - A new survey by pollster Mervin Field shows that 72% favor extending the State's temporary 1/2 cent sales tax increase for another year to help Calif. with its massive budget shortfall. When asked how they would solve the $6-9 billion shortfall, 51% favor a combo of tax hikes and spending cuts; 33% favor cuts only; and 9% would eliminate the deficit by tax increases alone...

• **Cellular Phone Update** - State Sen. Art Torres(D-L.A.) was right. He didn't take the job as the new director for the Cellular Carriers Assn. of CA. The job went to advocate Steve Carlson, who is a tax and housing industry lobbyist. Heard on the street: Torres is a contender to be the Asst. Secretary of the Interior - the number two job under Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt. Stay tuned...

HENRY KISSINGER AT COMMONWEALTH CLUB.
Former U.S. Sec. of State Henry Kissinger will be the keynote speaker when the Commonwealth Club of CA celebrates its 90th Birthday - Mar. 18. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with a reception, followed by dinner, the Grand Ballroom, Fairmont Hotel, S.F. For info & RSVPs, call (415)597-6705...

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

L.A. CITY COUNCIL RACES: SOME ODDS AND ENDS...
Editor's note: Here are some brief updates about the ongoing L.A. City Council races set for Apr. 20...

• **Murphy's Law** - It seems as though the L.A. City Clerk really screwed up. The office handed out district maps that were *inaccurate* --- and then insisted that they were not to blame if some candidates turned in petitions with invalid names. Council candidates are required to submit 500 valid names in order to qualify for the ballot...

...The only big name candidate who fell short of the 500 names was L.A. School Board member Warren Furutani, who is running against L.A. Councilwoman Joan Flores. He was about 67 names short at one point, but that may have declined somewhat. Still, as CALPEEK hit deadline, he was **not** on the ballot. Sources indicate he may go to court to win a spot under the doctrine of *substantial compliance*...

• **7th District** - The big news here is that Rose Castaneda dropped out of the race **after** a big hassle to put her back on the ballot because originally she was short of the required number of signatures. This out-in-out stuff is really messing things up, but the bottomline is that Castaneda's withdrawal from the race spells good news for both of the other two major Hispanic candidates: Richard Alarcon and Ray Magana. It's also good news for Lyle Hall, who now has the COPE endorsement. Castaneda, who was backed by the Waxman-Berman organization, also had substantial labor backing. That backing might now shift to Hall...

• **3rd District** - City Hall insiders still insist that incumbent Councilwoman Joy Picus is in for a tough reelection. Her key challenger is Laura Chick, who is really hustling. She's picked up the endorsement of the S.F. Valley Demo Party; Peter Ireland, who ran against Picus in 1989, also has endorsed. Georgia Mercer is doing fundraising for Chick. Picus did win the backing of COPE...

• **9th District** - Incumbent Rita Walters is going to get HIT **hard** for at least one of her actions while a member of the L.A. School Board. A recent L.A. Times story reported that Walters **opposed** a board task force report on **school violence** which recommended that metal detectors be placed in schools to catch students who might bring guns on campus. According to CALPEEK sources, fellow school board member Julie Kornstein was the chief proponent of the metal detector idea. If Kornstein's idea had been approved back in 1989-90, two students might be alive today. Question: were other school board members, who now seek higher office, also opposed to the task force report? Our sources say **YES**. Stay tuned...

L.A SCHOOLS DEBATE AT WIPA LUNCH MAR. 9th.
LAUSD Supt. Sydney Thompson, LAUSD pres. Leticia Quezada and LEARN CEO Mike Roos will debate the future of the L.A. School District when Women In Public Affairs (WIPA) holds its monthly meeting, 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, Mar. 9, L.A. Hilton Hotel. For info Pilar Perry (213)775-3486...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

• Max Besler, the senior political consultant for the Sacto pr/pa/campaign management firm of Townsend, Hermocillo, Ramundo & Usher, has been named a partner in the firm...

• Steven Miller, one of DOI Comm. John Garamendi's top deputies, has taken a job as a consultant to the L.A. law firm of Manatt, Phelps. Miller will be replaced as Dep. Comm. of Rate Regulation by Bill Ahern...

• San Benito Co. Sup. Curtis Graves has been elected president of the Regional Council of Rural Counties for 1993. He had been RCRC's vp in 1992. Serving with Graves will be Nevada Co. Sup. Bill Schultz (vp); Mono Co. Sup. Bill Reid (treasurer); and Modoc Co. Sup. Nancy J. Huffman (secretary)...

• New op research company for Demos: Smart Campaigns, with offices in Washington DC; Raleigh, No.Carolina; and Calif. - Tahoe area. New firm is an offshoot of The Research Group (Ace Smith's firm). Shawn Garvey is the Calif. contact. Clients include: CA Demo Party, DCCC, Demo Senatorial Campaign Cmt., U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer. (916)581-5721...

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED